

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of December 13, 2007. Claims 4, 14, and 21 are rewritten in independent form, and various other claims are amended as shown. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 13, and 19 are canceled herein without prejudice. With this amendment, claims 2-12, 14-18, and 20-32 are pending in the application.

I. Allowable subject matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 4, 6, 14, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner is thanked for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, dependent claim 4 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base independent claim 1, with claim 1 now canceled herein without prejudice. The claims that previously depended directly or indirectly on claim 1 are amended as shown to change their dependency based on newly independent claim 4. Further amendments are made as shown to these claims to more precisely recite the subject matter contained therein, to provide consistent antecedent basis, and/or to otherwise place such claims in better form.

Dependent claim 14 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base independent claim 13, with claim 13 now canceled herein without prejudice. The claims that previously depended directly or indirectly on claim 13 are amended as shown to change their dependency based on newly independent claim 14. Further amendments are made as shown to these claims to more precisely recite the subject matter contained therein, to provide consistent antecedent basis, and/or to otherwise place such claims in better form.

Dependent claim 21 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base independent claim 19, with claim 19 now canceled herein without prejudice. Claim 20 that previously depended directly or indirectly on claim 19 is amended as shown to change its dependency based on newly independent claim 21. Further amendments are made as shown to these claims to more precisely recite the subject matter contained therein, to provide consistent antecedent basis, and/or to otherwise place such claims in better form.

Independent claim 22 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, subject matter generally along the lines of those in claim 4 that was indicated to be allowable. Amendments are made to dependent claim 24 to more precisely recite the subject matter contained therein.

Independent claim 27 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, subject matter generally along the lines of those in claim 14 that was indicated to be allowable. Dependent claims 30 and 32 are amended to place such claims in better form.

It is respectfully submitted that these independent claims and their respective dependent claims are now in condition for allowance.

II. Rejections based on cited references

The present Office Action rejected certain claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) on the basis of various references. Given the allowable subject matter as previously discussed and addressed above, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) are rendered moot.

VI. Conclusion

Overall, none of the references singly or in any motivated combination disclose, teach, or suggest what is recited in the independent claims. The dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on these independent claims are likewise allowable based on at least the same reasons and based on the recitations contained in each dependent claim.

If the attorney of record (Dennis M. de Guzman) has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. de Guzman at (206) 622-4900.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Application No. 10/804,820
Reply to Office Action dated December 13, 2007

All of the claims remaining in the application are believed to be allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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